

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder has phone, Web, and print resources in English and Spanish to connect the Tennessee disability community with service providers. Referral services, free of cost, are provided to persons with disabilities, family members, service providers, and advocates. Pathfinder is a joint project of the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO PATHFINDER WEB SITE

Visitors to the Pathfinder Web site at www.familypathfinder.org will discover two recent additions to Pathfinder's collection of local and national resources.

A topic page addressing Tennessee Medicaid Waiver services has been added and includes information about Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers administered by the Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS) and the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability (TCAD). The DMRS waiver was developed as an alternative to services in an institutional setting and is the primary source of support for persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) who live in the community. Persons with ID and their families are encouraged to contact their DMRS Regional Office for information about this waiver.

Another HCBS waiver, serving older adults and persons with disabilities, is administered through the TCAD. This waiver is intended to provide a community-based alternative to nursing home care. Services available to waiver recipients include case management, personal care, homemaker, home delivered meals, and more. Persons seeking information about this waiver should contact their local Area Agency on Aging & Disability (AAAD). Contact information for both DMRS and the local AAADs is available through Pathfinder.

Another page, available under "Pathfinder Features," lists emergency preparedness and response resources for persons with disabilities and their families. One may ask why, when a year has passed since the arrival Hurricane Katrina, emergency response is still an important issue for the disability community. Disasters can happen anytime and anywhere and Pathfinder hopes to aid people with disabilities in maintaining their independence by helping them prepare adequately for natural disasters, fires, and other emergencies.

Web site users continue to have access to the Tennessee Disability Pathfinder Database, which lists statewide disability resources, and the Pathfinder Disability Calendar, a list of disability-related events across Tennessee.

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: THE FIRM

In July 2006, multiple Mid-South agencies serving the disability community came together to offer the first meeting of Family Informational Resource Meetings, or The "FIRM." The focus of the first meeting was Community Resources: Agencies and Programs Beneficial for Families Living with Issues of Disabilities. Future quarterly meetings will address education, family, and inclusion issues, as well as other topics of interest to families of persons with disabilities. Sponsors of the FIRM include UT Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP), and the Down Syndrome Association of Memphis and the Mid-South (DSAM). For more information, contact DSAM at dsaminfo@yahoo.com or 901-541-5155.

PATHFINDER DISABILITY CALENDAR

Pathfinder maintains the Pathfinder Disability Calendar, an Internet calendar of trainings, conferences, meetings, and other disability-related events. Organizations post events to this interactive calendar, the most comprehensive listing of Tennessee disability events. To access the calendar, go to the Pathfinder Web site at <http://www.familypathfinder.org> and click on "Pathfinder Disability Calendar." For more information, or to request an access code that will allow your organization to post events, contact Pathfinder.

STAY CONNECTED WITH PATHFINDER

Pathfinder publishes *The Pathfinder*, an e-newsletter containing information about program activities and other disability-related resources in Tennessee. Past issues of the publication are archived on the Pathfinder Web site (under Pathfinder Features, click on "The Pathfinder: News from Tennessee Disability Pathfinder"). To receive future news from Tennessee Disability Pathfinder via e-mail, please contact us at tnpathfinder@vanderbilt.edu.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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